

2015 Comprehensive Annual Report on Public Diplomacy and International Broadcasting

Focus on Fiscal Year 2014 Budget Data

South and Central Asia Region

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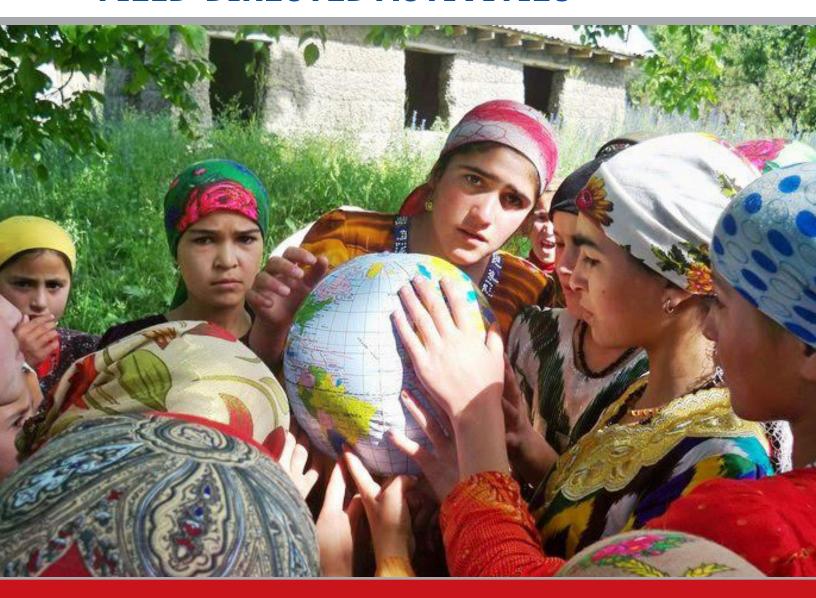
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FIELD-DIRECTED ACTIVITIES



U.S. PUBLIC DIPLOMACY IN THE SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA REGION

U.S. Public Diplomacy in South and Central Asia

The South and Central Asia region presents a diverse range of public diplomacy challenges and opportunities for U.S. officials. Of the nearly 1.75 billion people in South and Central Asia, nearly half (800 million) are under the age of 30, more than 600 million people are Muslim, and 70 percent of the population live in rural areas. Literacy rates vary, as does Internet access (5 percent of Afghanistan and Turkmenistan's population use the Internet, while 45 percent of Kazakhstan's population uses it). However, the South and Central Asia region is enjoying increasing connectivity. On average, there are 92.6 mobile phone subscriptions per 100 people. Low standards for the news media limit professional and fair journalism. No country in the region received a "free" media ranking in 2014 from Freedom House, although India, Nepal, Bangladesh, and the Maldives are "partly free."

The U.S. faces unique challenges with publics in each country. In Afghanistan, the inauguration of the national unity government and the signing of the Bilateral Security Agreement shifted the narrative from one of U.S. abandonment with a withdrawal of U.S. troops to a focus on the strong enduring bilateral relationship. Yet disparaging narratives about the United States can still spread quickly in the region. In Pakistan, where, according to the Pew Research Center, only 14 percent of the Pakistanis had a favorable view of the United States, the narrative that the United States is the core of all problems for Pakistanis sustains. Throughout Central Asia, there is a common Russian-propagated narrative that outsiders, and particularly the United States, cannot be trusted. Relatively negative views of the United States and positive views of Russia dominate in the Central Asian countries. Many South Asian countries naturally see Russia and China as strategic partners given their proximity.

Overall, public diplomacy efforts throughout the region focus mainly on students of all ages, key influencers in civil society, and local news media to advance U.S. foreign policy goals. With recent Russian aggression in the region and an active Russian propaganda campaign in its periphery, public diplomacy and public affairs offices are looking for ways to increase Central Asian citzens' access to accurate information about the United States and to counter Russian influence.

U.S. FOREIGN POLICY GOALS

U.S. foreign policy goals vary country by country. Throughout the region, however, the objectives are to advance regional economic cooperation and development within it; support security and stability to advance U.S. interests; and promote democratic, accountable and inclusive governance. The United States is working with countries throughout the region to reduce the

threats of terrorism and violent extremism and promote greater economic development through access to education and regional cooperation on energy and water resources. In Afghanistan, Pakistan and India, U.S. foreign policy objectives are to advance strategic partnerships and promote stability so that each country plays a constructive role in the region. In Central Asia, the foundation for U.S. engagement is to support independent, sovereign states that have good relations with their neighbors and are able to provide opportunities for their people—states that increasingly uphold regional security, increase their economic integration with regional and global markets, and demonstrate respect for human rights and democratic governance. Countering Russian disinformation in Central Asia is also an increasingly important foreign policy objective.

U.S. PUBLIC DIPLOMACY GOALS

U.S. public diplomacy supports the above foreign policy objectives through a mix of tools. The stated goals include enhancing connectivity, democratic reform and human rights in the region; increasing access to education, especially for girls and women; countering violent narratives in the region; and increasing access to information. Members of civil society, journalists, and exchange visitors who take part in U.S.-government public diplomacy programs are likely to have more favorable views of U.S. foreign policy, thereby providing an alternative to Russian and Chinese narratives.

There are American and locally engaged staffs at more than a dozen U.S. embassies and consulates in the region. They aim to target youth and strengthen domestic outreach to think tanks, universities and journalists. Outreach is primarily done through 96 American Spaces (libraries, cultural centers, corners, information resource centers) in the region. Regional public diplomacy uses virtual exchanges, cultural and sports exchanges, and English language programs, such as the English Access Microscholarship Program (Access), to meet a growing demand for instruction. Youth and educational exchanges such as the Youth Leadership Program, FLEX program, YES program, and Fulbright and Humphrey Fellowships are popular means to connect with emerging leaders, as is the International Visitor Leadership Program, which will aim to be more flexible and responsive to U.S. foreign policy goals in coming years. There are more than 70,000 alumni in the region from various U.S.-sponsored exchange programs. Pakistan has the largest cohort at more than 15,000 people actively organized in the Pakistan-U.S. Alumni Network (PUAN).

*See Academic Programs: Fulbright Students & Scholars (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Kazakhstan,

Kyrgyzstan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan); UGRAD Pakistan; UGRAD Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan); UGRAD South Asia (Bangladesh, India, Nepal, and Pakistan); Afghanistan Junior Faculty Development Program (AJFDP); English Fellows; Access Microscholarships; EducationUSA (468,467 in-person and 1.5 million virtual contacts). *See Professional & Cultural Programs: National Security Language Initiative for Youth (NSLI-Y), Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange & Study (YES), Future Leaders Exchange (FLEX), Center Stage.

In academic year 2013/2014, 127,301 students from the South and Central Asia region studied in the United States, according to Open Doors Data. This translates to a 5.1 percent increase from 2012/2013 and this accounts for only 14 percent of the foreign students studying in the United States. Indian students represent nearly 81 percent of all student exchanges from this region to the United States. Between 1949 and 2014, 11,578 students from the region have traveled to the United States on Fulbright fellowships and 5,852 Americans have held Fulbrights in the region. In FY 2014, 973 of the students were Americans in South and Central Asia and 689 were South and Central Asian students in the United States.

U.S. PUBLIC DIPLOMACY SPENDING

In the region as a whole, according to the data available, U.S. public diplomacy spending in FY 2014 was focused on education; democracy, good governance and rule of law; and women and society. In terms of program activities, the most spending went toward American Centers and Spaces, cultural programs, and support for mission initiatives. The least funded activities included evaluation, books and publications, speaker programs, and supplementing D.C.-directed programs in from the Educational and Cultural Affairs

and International Information Programs budgets.

Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan all spent funding on countering violent extremism. In FY 2013, 28 percent of Afghanistan spending went toward CVE; in FY 2014, 31 percent did. In Pakistan, 5.9 percent of FY 2013 funds went toward CVE; in FY 2014, 4.8 percent went toward it. The majority of funds were spent strengthening people-to-people ties.

Public Diplomacy FY 2014 Expenditures

Country	Actual Expenditures
Afghanistan	\$56.482 million*
Pakistan	\$36.345 million*
India (and Bhutan)	\$8,409,687
Kazakhstan	\$1,953,582
Kyrgyzstan	\$1,364,517
Nepal	\$1,372,570
Bangladesh	\$1,641,922
Tajikistan	\$1,314,722
Sri Lanka (and Maldives)	\$885,163
Turkmenistan	\$956,659
Uzbekistan	\$761,374

(Data in this table was provided by the bureau and was within 3 percent of the data we received from the PDRP system except where noted with an asterisk. Afghanistan and Pakistan budget figures include Economic Support Funds)

In Afghanistan and Pakistan in FY 2014 and FY 2015, Economic Support Funds (ESF) significantly supplemented funds from the Diplomatic & Consular Programs (D&CP) budget. The Afghanistan and Pakistan break down follows.

AFGHANISTAN FY 2014

FY14 Actual - \$56.482 million

Civil Society and Women - 9.37 percent

2.424 million (D&CP) + 2.870 million (ESF) = 5.294 million

Sample Program: Embassy Scholarship Program 2014 (\$4.4 million)

This grant provides 62, 4-year full-ride scholarships at the American University of Afghanistan. The 62 scholarships consists of 40 women undergraduates, 12 women MBA students, and 10 are male or female alumni of State Department academic and English-language programs. Of the 62 scholarship recipients selected, 60 are still currently enrolled.

Countering Violent Extremism – 31.02 percent

\$1.007 million (D&CP) + \$16.513 million (ESF) = \$17.520 million

Sample Program: Police Community Outreach Program (\$1.085 million)

This program builds public confidence in police and prosecutors through community police engagements

that strengthen the police's accountability and responsiveness by enabling them to establish a relationship with the districts they oversee. Key activities include local sports events, key leader engagements, and a reality television series similar to the U.S. program "Cops."

People to People Ties – 42.09 percent

88.570 million (D&CP) + 15.202 million (ESF) = 23.772 million

Sample Program: Lincoln Learning Centers (\$4.966 million)

This three-year cooperative agreement aims to manage and enhance strategic programming and engagement in 20 Lincoln Learning Centers (LLCs) across 18 provinces: Asadabad (male), Asadabad (female), Bamyan, Charikar, Faizabad, Gardez, Ghazni, Herat, Jalalabad, Kabul (Kabul University and Shaharara Women's Garden), Kandahar, Kapisa, Khost, Kunduz, Lashkar Gah, Maimana, Mazar-e-Sharif, Qali-I-Naw, and Sharana. LLCs provide free and open access to the internet, books, information on educational opportunities in the United States, as well as cultural programming to promote mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of Afghanistan.

Operations – 9.57 percent

\$4.489 million (D&CP) + \$918,179 (ESF) = \$5.408 million

Building Afghan Communications Capacity & Expanding Media Outreach - 7.95 percent \$4.489 million (ESF)

Sample Program: Media Information Center (\$2,008 million)

This grant established four Regional Media Information Centers (MICs) in the governor's offices of Balkh, Herat, Nangarhar, and Kandahar Provinces. The primary objectives are to provide the required infrastructure to facilitate government-citizen communications; to counter violent extremist messaging; to enhance the capacities of relevant provincial communicators in each region through training and professional development activities; and to support a strong and sustainable media environment in provincial Afghanistan.

AFGHANISTAN FY 2015

FY15 Planned - \$49.962 million*

*Based on projections

People to People Ties – 34.97 percent

88.599 million (D&CP) + 88.871 million (ESF) = \$17.470 million

Countering Violent Extremism – 22.76 percent

\$11.369 million (ESF)

<u>Civil Society and Women – 20.31 percent</u>

7.310 million (D&CP) + 2.835 million (ESF) = 10.145 million

Operations – 13.13 percent

6.061 million (D&CP) + 500,000 (ESF) = 6.561 million

Operations include monitoring and evaluation of grants and cooperative agreements, procurements and services contracts, travel, and salaries for locally employed staff.

Building Afghan Communications Capacity and Expanding Media Outreach – 2.19 percent

0 (D&CP) + 1.095 million (ESF) = 0.095 million

Regional Integration/New Silk Road <u>-</u>0.60 percent

\$250,000 (D&CP) + \$50,000 (ESF) = \$300,000

Unallocated – 6 percent

\$3.022 million

Final programming decisions have not yet been made for these funds. Generally, most PAS funding, other than ESF funding, is available for two years. The "unallocated" funding noted in this question will be used and carried over to the second year. Due to the two year availability of funding, PAS carries over funding each fiscal year to the next fiscal year. The FY 2014 carry over was roughly \$9 million. The FY 2015 total carry over is expected to be about \$5 million. Additionally, the U.S. Embassy in Kabul has an Information Resource Center (IRC) responsible for oversight of the LLCs and supports digital diplomacy efforts out of the Public Affairs Section. As part of the President's guidance to move towards a Kabul-based diplomatic presence after 2016, the U.S. Consulates in Herat and Mazar-e-Sharif closed in FY 2015.

PAKISTAN FY 2014

FY14 Actual - \$36.345 million

People to People Ties - 59.4 percent

\$7.273 million (D&CP) + \$14.303 million (ESF) = \$21.576 million

Sample Program: Music Mela and South by Southwest Music Festival

Music Mela 2015 in Pakistan featured 25 acts from diverse musical genres, including several intercultural collaborations with American and Pakistani artists. In addition to live performances, Music Mela 2015 hosted a number of master classes for musicians and workshops on intellectual property rights and artist royalties. The South-by-Southwest Showcase in Austin, Texas highlighted a diverse group of Pakistani voices at one of the world's premier music festivals, providing an unparalleled opportunity for American audiences to gain a better understanding of Pakistani culture and tradition. In addition to these two programs, the U.S. embassy supports year-round visual and performing arts programming in Pakistan designed to strengthen people-to-people ties and foster mutual understanding.

Strengthening Local Partners - 16.6 percent

\$4.785 million (D&CP) + \$1.239 million (ESF) = \$6.024 million

Sample Program: University Partnerships

The U.S.-Pakistan University Partnership Initiative establishes long-term, ongoing relationships between Pakistani institutions of higher learning with those in the United States. These three-year partnerships promote professional development for faculty, curriculum reform, joint research, and increased mutual understanding between Pakistan and the United States through sustainable, peer-to-peer relationships. There are currently 19 university partnerships in Pakistan.

Operations - 15.7 percent

\$4.706 million (D&CP) + \$1.018 million (ESF) = \$5.723 million

Operations include monitoring and evaluation of grants and cooperative agreements, procurements and services contracts, travel, and salaries for locally employed staff.

Countering Violent Extremism - 4.8 percent

\$926,620 (D&CP) + \$818,257 (ESF) = \$1.745 million

Sample Program: Community Action Project

This program engages and builds the capacity of community, civil society, and nongovernmental leaders from 30 "tier-two" districts of Pakistan to develop linkages and initiatives that promote long-term community resilience. "Tier-two" districts are defined as remote districts that are not connected with the development mainstream of Pakistan and are often underserved and isolated. Through the implementing partner's outreach, this project identifies key community leaders and invites them to Islamabad to introduce them to various democratic, nongovernmental, and civil society organizations, as well as to think tanks. Mentoring lectures and training workshops are held by development practitioners and subject specialists to identify falsehoods, provide alternate perspectives, and counter violent extremist narratives with positive messages. The workshops also provide project design and management training to enable participants to develop Community Action Projects, or CAPs, that address communal conflicts or challenges, thereby building long-term community resilience. The program awards 24 sub-grants for these grassroots projects. One notable CAP was a debate competition organized in public schools and madrassas in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on the topic of peace and harmony. The district had been plagued by sectarian violence. During the three-day competition, students and religious leaders focused on how to restore peace. This was the district's first such public event in years.

Expanded Media Outreach - 3.5 percent

\$778,754 (D&CP) + \$498,482 (ESF) = \$1.277 million

Sample Program: Center for Excellence in Journalism

This three-year cooperative agreement to the International Center for Journalism (ICFJ), in conjunction with the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University, provides funding to establish a Center for Excellence in Journalism at the Karachi School of Business and Leadership. The agreement also provides funding to develop a journalism curriculum and conduct in-service training programs for journalists in print, broadcast and social media. The center addresses the need for skills-based journalism education in Pakistan.

PAKISTAN FY 2015

FY15 Planned - \$35.626 million*

*This is based on projections

People to People Ties - 31.5 percent

\$2.5 million (D&CP) + \$8.726 (ESF) = \$11.226 million

Strengthening Local Partners – 30.3 percent

\$10.8 million (D&CP)

Operations - 13.8 percent

\$4.9 million (D&CP)

<u>Countering Violent Extremism – 15.4 percent</u>

2 million (D&CP) + 3.5 million (ESF) = 5.5 million

Expand Media Outreach - 3.4 percent

\$1.2 million (D&CP)

In addition to the U.S. embassy in Islamabad, the U.S. mission in Pakistan has consulates in Peshawar, Lahore and Karachi; Information Resource Centers in Islamabad, Karachi and Peshawar; and 16 Lincoln Corners throughout the country.

SOUTH ASIA PUBLIC DIPLOMACY SAMPLE PROGRAMS

Bangladesh

The United States supports Bangladesh's efforts to achieve a peaceful, secure, prosperous, healthy, and democratic future. Bangladesh has the fourth-largest Muslim population in the world, with most Bangladeshis maintaining their Sufi traditions. Eighty percent of Bangladesh's 160 million residents are under the age of 40; 65 percent are under the age of 25. The U.S. mission's public diplomacy focus is on youth and the promotion of exchange and commercial relationships. Through outreach, mentoring, and an extensive grants portfolio, the embassy has supported youth-led organizations in community service, education, entrepreneurship, environmental protection and women's empowerment. It also established an Ambassador's Council of Youth Advisors specifically to gain insight into the views of youth leaders.

In addition, the embassy launched the "Entrepreneurship Initiative" through the Edward M. Kennedy (EMK) Center in late 2013 to help support an increasing interest among Bangladeshi youth in social entrepreneurship. The \$100,000 program connects aspiring Bangladeshi entrepreneurs with U.S. businesses and successful Bangladeshi-American business leaders through mentorship and training programs. The young Bangladeshis also receive access to seed funding and infrastructure support to ensure success. In addition, the embassy will send 16 outstanding young entrepreneurs to the United States for a three-week training program called "Project Catalyst" in 2015. The American space, the Edward M. Kennedy (EMK) Center for Public Service and the Arts, opened in September 2012 in the heart of Dhaka's university area. The partner-managed center hosts more than 1,000 programs annually and has reached over 100,000 people since its inauguration. It offers opportunities to develop leadership skills, encourage community service and professional development, learn English, and learn more about American culture and policy through programs and speakers. In addition to the EMK Center in Dhaka, there are currently four American Corners outside of the capital (Rajshahi, Chittagong, Sylhet, and Khulna).

India

The second-largest country in the world by population, India is an increasingly important partner for the United States. Polls show that the majority of ordinary Indian citizens hold a positive view of the U.S. and there are many areas of policy focus that depend on people-to-people engagement. U.S. public diplomacy programming in India directly supports current mission goals, namely: promoting stronger U.S.-India bilateral relations, with an emphasis on economic, scientific, and educational ties; encouraging India's more productive regional and global role; enhancing security

and law enforcement cooperation; and contributing to India's stronger internal capacity to address its challenges and prepare for its future.

Key public diplomacy programming themes, especially climate change and environment, women's issues and empowerment, and diversity and inclusion, are all directly tied to these goals. The Indian public opinion landscape towards the U.S. changed dramatically with the civil nuclear agreement, initiated in 2005, which allowed the U.S. and India to find areas of common strategic interest and decreased lingering Cold War tensions. More recently, the election of Prime Minister Modi in 2014, his visit to Washington, and President Obama's attendance at India's Republic Day in January 2015, the first time a U.S. president attended this ceremony, have underscored commitment to a strong U.S.-India relationship. Increased economic growth in India and growing bilateral trade is a hallmark of the current relationship, and India is second only to China in sending students to the U.S. (more than 102,000 students in 2013-14). To advance U.S. public diplomacy goals in India, U.S. Embassy New Delhi, as well as Consulates General Mumbai, Chennai, Hyderabad, and Kolkata, interact with students, leaders in academia and think tanks, the media, civil society, underserved populations, and other audiences. The American Center New Delhi, which opened in 1951, continues to be a major hub for public outreach in the capital, with nearly 350,000 visitors in FY 2014. American Spaces in Chennai, Mumbai, and Kolkata also see thousands of visitors each year, many of whom are students seeking advising through EducationUSA.

Nepal

Nepal is recovering from a devastating earthquake and its political leaders are finalizing a new constitution. The April 25, 2015 7.8 magnitude earthquake and its aftershocks killed nearly 9,000 people and caused widespread damage in Kathmandu and several surrounding districts. The U.S. mission is supporting the country's recovery including the preservation of cultural heritage damaged during the earthquake. In past few years there have been 17 grants from the Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Preservation, including a \$1.2 million project to restore the 17th century Patan Royal Palace in greater Kathmandu. The embassy's Public Affairs Section also works closely with the U.S. Agency for International Development to support three global Presidential initiatives: Global Health, Feed the Future, and Global Climate Change. Other public diplomacy activities emphasize the need to empower minorities, women and youth.

Youth is a central element in all PD activities because 50 percent of Nepalis are under the age of 18 and 75 percent is under the age of 35. In 2014, 440 candidates applied from across Nepal to be part of the U.S. Embassy Youth Council and 53 were selected

for the year-long tenure. Members meet regularly with the Ambassador and participate in embassy programs, small grant competitions and mentoring programs. The U.S. mission in Kathmandu has eight American Spaces across the country. In 2013, a new mobile American Space called the "Book Bus," which brings public diplomacy activity to hard-to-reach corners of the country, began service. In early 2015, in partnership with the Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, another American Space, the Nepal America Entrepreneurship Center in Kathmandu, opened. This center hosts a business incubator and several programs on entrepreneurship. The U.S. mission also has a robust alumni program, which includes a network of more than 2,200 Nepalese, eight of whom are currently government ministers.

Sri Lanka

U.S. public diplomacy programs in Sri Lanka focus on advancing reconciliation, freedom of expression, and the empowerment of youth and women. Activities to promote reconciliation include interfaith dialogue, community service, and training in conflict resolution, peacebuilding and nonviolence. Sports programming, including sports envoys and an inter-ethnic cricket league, are effective means in bringing communities together. In 2015, the Public Affairs Section is taking social media training on the road with a new iBus. It also provides innovative, small-scale projects targeting the 15-25 age group that support education and community development, in addition to the environment and civil society. Embassy-organized youth forums, writers' labs, bi-monthly poetry slam sessions and speaker programs at universities, colleges and Muslim schools, are also part of a comprehensive set of community outreach efforts. In 2014, the Public Affairs Section organized a week-long Voluntary Visitor program for the Sri Lanka parliament's women's caucus. It has also organized entrepreneurship workshops for rural women throughout the country, and alumni activities regularly promote women's entrepreneurial efforts.

International Broadcasting in South and Central Asia

The BBG operates 12 services via the Voice of America (VOA) and Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/ RL) in the South and Central Asian region. Using radio, television, websites, and social media, the networks reach audiences speaking Bangla, Dari, Kazakh, Kyrgyz, Pashto, Russian, Tajik, Turkmen, Urdu and Uzbek. Two services target Afghanistan and two target the Afghanistan-Pakistan border region.

VOA's Bangla, Dari, Pashto, Urdu and Uzbek services that target the region cost \$18.138 million with program delivery. RFE/RL's services in Dari, Pashto, Kazakh, Kyrgyz, Tajik, Turkmen, and Uzbek amounted to \$17.696 million with program delivery.

VOICE OF AMERICA

Dari, Pashto, Bangla, Urdu, and Uzbek

VOA AFGHAN SERVICE (DARI AND PASHTO)

FY 2014 \$4.778 million (\$6.232 million with program delivery)

Origin: Dari - 1980; Pashto - 1982

Delivery Method: Radio (SW, MW, FM), Television, Web-

site and Mobile Site, Social Media

Radio Original Programming: 46.5 hours/week

Radio Total Broadcasting: 58 hours/week

Television Original Programming: 6.5 hours/week

Television Total Broadcasting: 6.5 hours/week

The service has 6.6 million regular listeners and viewers within Afghanistan, but targets Dari and Pashto populations in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran, and those in the diaspora in the Middle East and Europe. It is one of the leading sources of daily news and information for Dari- and Pashto-speaking audiences and its program topics include health, science, entertainment, sports, and women's rights. VOA Afghan is one of the leading content providers on social media, and has one of the largest followers, close to one million. With media freedoms uncertain in Afghanistan, VOA aims to provide consistent, professional local and international news to inform Afghans of the pace of reform and reconstruction efforts, women's and youth issues, business agriculture and technology, health, education, security, human rights and Western culture. Sample programs include: "TV Ashna," which features interviews with Afghan and American policy makers, news, features, and reports from Afghanistan and other cities worldwide; "Karwan," a youth-oriented TV magazine focusing on social, cultural, and political issues in both Afghanistan and the United States; "Radio Ashna," which provides

original news reports from Afghanistan, world news round-ups, business and economic features, and topics of interest to Afghan women and youth; and "The Late Night Literature Show," where Afghan singers and poets who reside in the United States discuss their work and take questions from listeners. The FY 2016 budget proposes rationalizing Afghan radio services to focus on TV. VOA would retain three hours of programming daily on radio and RFE/RL would retain 12 hours.

VOA RADIO DEEWA (PASHTO)

FY 2014 \$2.957 million (\$4.024 million with program delivery)

Delivery Method: Radio (MW, SW, satellite); Television; Website and Mobile Site, Social Media

Radio Original Programming: 63 hours/week

Total Radio Broadcasting: 168 hours/week

Television Original Programming: 14 hours/week

Total Television Broadcasting: 14 hours/week

VOA Deewa (Light) TV/Radio provides news and information to the Pakistan-Afghanistan border region, where more than 40 million Pashto-speaking Pakistanis and Afghans live. Deewa aims to provide professional news in a region that lacks local independent sources of information on regional, international and U.S. politics and where military narrative, jihadi agenda and extremist groups are dominant in the local state and private media market. Sample programs include: "Radio Deewa," a news, current affairs and call-in show; call-in shows to discuss issues relating to youth, women's empowerment, and politics for listeners from Pakistan's Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA),

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan Province, Karachi, and the Pashtun diaspora; "Sweet Woman," a daily morning show for women that focuses on covering and analyzing daily events in the region; and "Jump, Jump Camel," a program for children.

VOA UZBEK SERVICE

FY 2014 \$664,000 (\$708,000 with program delivery)

Origin: 1972

Delivery Method: Radio (affiliates in Kyrgyzstan and Northern Afghanistan), Television, Website and Mobile Site, Social Media

Radio Original Programming: 3.5 hours/week Radio Total Broadcasting: 7 hours/week Television Original Programming: 0.5 hours/week Television Total Broadcasting: 4 hours/week

Targeting audiences in Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and ethnic Uzbek populations in Afghanistan and China, VOA Uzbek aims to provide professional news on political, economic and social issues in an area where access to free media is limited. It also aims to provide a platform for reconciliation among Uzbek, Kyrgyz and Tajik communities in the region and frequently produces special programs on issues relevant to ethnic Uzbeks in northern Afghanistan and in western China. One program, "Exploring America," covers U.S. foreign policy, U.S. relations with Uzbekistan and the rest of Central Asia, and segments on American life, education and culture.

VOA URDU SERVICE

FY 2014 \$3.034 million (\$5.939 million with program delivery)

Origin: 1951

Delivery Method: Radio (MW/FM), Television, Website and Mobile Site, Social Media

Radio Original Programming: 42 hours/week Radio Total Broadcasting: 91 hours/week

Television Original Programming: 3.05 hours/week **Television Total Broadcasting:** 3.05 hours/week

Targeting audiences within Pakistan, the Urdu-speaking

population in India, and the Pakistani diaspora in the Middle East and Europe, VOA Urdu reaches 5.3 percent of the audience in Pakistan, according to a June 2014 survey. Its programming on Express TV reaches an elite Pakistani audience and provides news on current events, health, education, politics and roundtable discussions on issues like U.S.-Pakistan relations. Sample programs include: "Kahani Pakistani," a flagship daily show that features stories on life in America, the Pakistani diaspora, U.S. election systems, health care, and related subjects; "Café DC," which features interviews with Washington leaders on their daily lives and career experiences; "Urdu News Minute," a one-minute international news brief that airs Monday through Friday; and "Zindagi 360," an entertainment and lifestyle program aimed at teens and young adults in Pakistan and the Pakistani diaspora.

VOA BANGLA SERVICE

FY 2014 \$1.105 million (\$1.235 million with program delivery)

Origin: 1958

Delivery Method: Radio (MW, FM affiliates), Television, Website and Mobile Site, Social Media

Radio Original Programming: 8.1 hours/week
Radio Total Broadcasting: 8.1 hours/week

Television Original Programming: .25 hours/week **Television Total Broadcasting:** .25 hours/week

on radio, television, and the Internet and reaches 5.3 million listeners weekly, according to a January 2014 survey. VOA's main broadcasts reach Bangladesh, and the Bangla-speaking Indian States of West Bengal, Assam, Tripura, as well as several Arab and Muslim countries in the Middle East, North Africa and Southeast Asia where Bangladeshi workers live. Sample programs include: "Hello America," which provides analysis of major social and political issues in the United States, Bangladesh, South Asia and the world; "Straight from America," a weekly video magazine program; "Let's Play Politics," a weekly video feature on

U.S. politics and the world of soccer; and "VOA 60 News,"

a weekly roundup of the latest news from the United

VOA's Bangla Service provides news and information

RADIO FREE EUROPE/RADIO LIBERTY

Dari, Pashto, Kazakh, Kyrgyz, Tajik, Turkmen, Uzbek

RFE/RL RADIO AZADI (PASHTO, DARI)

FY 2014 \$4.965 million (\$6.204 million with program delivery)

Origin: Dari - 1985-1993, resumed 2002-present; Pashto - 1987-1993, resumed 2002-Present

Delivery Method: Radio (FM, MW, SW, satellite), Website and Mobile Site, Social Media

Radio Original Programming: 71 hours/week Radio Total Broadcast: 71 hours/week

Television Original Programming: 0.5 hours/week

Television Total Broadcast: 0.5 hours/week

As a surrogate national public broadcaster that reaches 43 percent of Afghan adults each week (according to BBG research), Radio Azadi provides in-depth coverage of local issues and events affecting people's daily lives. While most local media are owned by powerful individuals or interest groups, Azadi has become a symbol of fair and objective journalism in Afghanistan. Azadi programming includes call-in shows on topics such as current affairs, health and other socioeconomic issues in which listeners participate directly and ask questions from authorities and analysts. It carries 27 regularly scheduled feature programs, each between 10 to 15 minutes on various subjects such as women's empowerment, youth, culture, political satire, and family matters. "Colors of Life" profiles the uncommon lives of ordinary people while "In Search of Loved Ones" helps reunite families separated by war and dislocation. A weekly 45-minute show "New Thoughts" is focused on youth and their activities in society and as part of political and democratic processes. Azadi also airs 2 hours daily of music requests in the midday hours. Azadi produces a weekday regional news round-up of 3 to 4 minutes in Dari and Pashto for Ariana TV. Internet access and use of new media is growing among younger Afghans. Azadi's trained VJs produce 15 to 20 videos and photo galleries each month for its website. The 3- to 4-minute videos are mostly about the lives of women, youth, and internally displaced people as well as other human interest stories. In collaboration with local mobile companies, Azadi provides unique and innovative content to Afghan Wireless subscribers in Afghanistan that no other media provide.

RFE/RL RADIO MASHAAL (PASHTO)

FY 2014 \$3.099 million (\$3.723 million with program delivery)

Origin: 2010

Delivery Method: Radio (AM/SW), Website and Mobile Site,

Social Media

Radio Original Programming: 56.5 hours/week

Radio Total Broadcast: 56.5 hours/week

Radio Mashaal provides news and local coverage as an alternative to extremist propaganda in Pakistan's Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) and along its border with Afghanistan. Because radio is still the primary source of information in FATA, Mashaal successfully challenges extremist propaganda by holding live roundtable debates, organizing interactive call-in shows, and producing special features without fear or intimidation. In-depth political reporting features local policy makers and tribal elders, including well-known moderate Pashtun personalities who reject violence and extremism. Mashaal also provides a free platform for citizen engagement to the people of the area. Mashaal is targeting youths, local elders, and religious leaders with reports on tolerance, security and the development of their communities. Mashaal is also engaging youth, with several new programs aimed specifically at young girls and boys. Listeners engage with Mashaal through Skype, Facebook and three toll-free numbers during live call-in shows.

RFE/RL RADIO OZODI (TAJIK)

FY 2014 \$1.603 million (\$1.684 million with program delivery)

Origin: 1953

Delivery Method: Radio (SW, satellite), Website and Mobile

Site, Social Media

Radio Original Programming: 22.75 hours/week

Radio Total Broadcast: 22.75 hours/week

Radio Ozodi aims to provide professional news and information in a largely government-controlled media environment. In recent years, the government has on several occasions blocked access to Radio Ozodi's website ozodi. org and other major international media websites. It also withdrew accreditation for Radio Ozodi journalists. Despite these actions, according to surveys by local research groups, its website is the most popular news source in the country. The Association of Internet Providers in Tajikistan ranked Radio Ozodi among the five most-read websites in Tajikistan in 2013. The outlet interviews political and civil society leaders and connects them with ordinary citizens. The service's extensive coverage on human rights abuses, torture, and other civil rights violations are frequently quoted by international organizations. Ozodi provides a common platform for open discussion and the free flow of information among ordinary people, well-known experts, politicians and government officials. Google Hangouts, Skype, Facebook, MoiMir and other new media tools add a new vigor to Ozodi's radio programs. Sample programs include: the 30-minute "News Journal," which is focused on daily events including domestic, international and regional news and features; a youth program called "Oyandasoz;" and "Voice of Migrants," which covers the human rights concerns of the 1 million Tajik citizens living and working in Russia.

RFE/RL RADIO AZATLYK (TURKMEN)

FY 2014 \$659,000 (\$746,000 with program delivery)

Origin: 1953

Delivery Method: Radio (SW, satellite), Website and Mobile Site, Social Media

Radio Original Programming: 5.5 hours/weekRadio Total Broadcast: 5.5 hours/week

Radio Azatlyk works to offer Turkmen-speaking audiences professional and locally sourced information about themselves and their society. It is the only international media broadcaster operating in Turkmen and providing news from inside the country with original video reporting and photojournalism on human rights and civil society, key developments in Turkmenistan, topics concerning freedom of the press and expression, and reports on religious and ethnic minorities. Azatlyk does not have a bureau in Turkmenistan and the freelancers who work with Azatlyk risk their lives and livelihoods to send in reports. But Azatlyk's impact is clearly demonstrated by audience calls, emails and citizen journalism reports, as well as by the reactions of the Turkmen government. In one case in February 2014, a week after Azatlyk reported about the detention of ethnic Turkmen Afghans by Turkmen border guards on a disputed island on the Afghan-Turkmen border, locals were allowed to walk freely on the land.

RFE/RL RADIO AZATTYK (KYRGYZ)

FY 2014 \$1.722 million (\$2.123 million with program delivery)

Origin: 1953

Delivery Method: Radio (nationwide FM, satellite), TV (KTRK national channel, 4 affiliates), Website and Mobile Site, Social Media

Radio Original Programming: 25.3 hours/week Radio Total Broadcast: 25.3 hours/week Television Original Programming: 1.5 hour/week

Television Total Broadcast: 1.5 hour/week

Radio Azattyk connects Kyrgyzstani society with informed reporting and debate on topics ignored or collectively neglected in Kyrgyzstan, such as interethnic tolerance, minority rights, abuse and torture within the justice system, Islamic radicalism, and corruption in the government. According to the latest BBG survey in Kyrgyzstan, Azattyk now reaches 36 percent of Kyrgyzstanis each week with its multimedia programming in Kyrgyz and Russian. In light of the dominance of Russian media in the country promoting the Kremlin's version of domestic and foreign policy, Azattyk has become a unique and alternative media platform. With the rising influence of radical Islam in society, the dominance of Russian politics and media, and growing anti-Western sentiment, Azattyk provides professional coverage of international events and life in foreign countries, as well as analysis of events in Kyrgyzstan with a regional and international perspective. Sample programs include: "Inconvenient Questions," a political talk show; and "Azattyk+," a youth-oriented news and information show.

RFE/RL RADIO AZATTYQ (KAZAKH)

FY 2014 \$1.676 million

Origin: 1953

Delivery Method: Website and Mobile Site, Social Media, TV **Television Original Programming:** 0.42 hours/week

Television Total Broadcast: 0.42 hours/week

Radio Azattyq reports on compelling stories which would receive little or no coverage from local media, and also provides a platform for audiences in Kazakhstan to engage and share ideas. Targeting young, urban professionals, college students, and journalists, Azattyq delivers multimedia content digitally via its Kazakh- and

Russian-language websites, mobile platforms and social media. The outlet seeks to set the information agenda, offering objective news and perspectives in both Kazakh and Russian. It also aims to promote civic activism that brings real change into the lives of its audience. The service puts special emphasis on visual aspects and interaction with its audience. User-generated content on Azattyq's website has also become an important method of engaging and connecting with audiences in the country.

RFE/RL RADIO OZODLIK (UZBEK)

FY 2014 \$1.505 million (\$1.540 million with program delivery)

Origin: 1953

Delivery Method: Radio (SW and satellite), Website and Mo-

bile Site, Social Media

Radio Original Programming: 19.5 hours/week Radio Total Broadcast: 19.5 hours/week

Radio Ozodlik is the only Uzbek-language surrogate broadcaster and is well-known as a trustworthy source of information in Uzbekistan. Ozodlik is a leader in the country among other international broadcasters thanks to its wide network of contacts and sources in Uzbekistan, a professional reporting team in Prague, and dedication to the mission and strategic focus on innovation and new media. In contrast to domestic media, Ozodlik provides uncensored news and analysis that challenges the government's policies, creates an atmosphere of open debate, and provides an accurate account of world affairs. Programs feature the most important domestic news reports, regional and world stories, interviews and special programs ranging from culture to politics to the economy, in addition to the daily "Open Microphone" program, which airs listeners' opinions. Ozodlik is also a leader in engaging with audiences via mobile. Ozodlik's mobile apps, as well as use of WhatsApp and Telegram, provide interaction with listeners, allow for submission of user-generated content, and allow the outlet to generate additional content.

COUNTRY PROFILES

SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA REGION COUNTRY BY COUNTRY PROFILES

Afghanistan

DEMOGRAPHICS

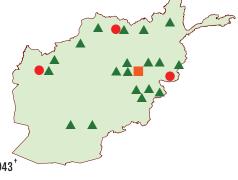
Geographic area (sq. km.): 652860 Population: 31280518 64.20% Below 24 yrs. old: Refugee population: 16863 Urban population: 26% GDP/capita: \$666 Unemployment: 8% Below poverty line: **36%** (2008)

COMMUNICATIONS AND LITERACY

FH Media Freedom: Not Free Internet users/100 people: 5.9 Mobile phones/100 people: 71

Literacy: (2011) 32% (F: 18%, M:45%)

Avg. years of education: 9 (F: 7, M: 11)



PUBLIC DIPLOMACY SPENDING

TOTALS FY13 ACTUAL: \$65,130,000 FY14 ACTUAL: \$56,482,000* FY15 PLANNED: \$3,839,943

Total PD Spending by Theme Top Spending by Activity

Bangladesh

DEMOGRAPHICS

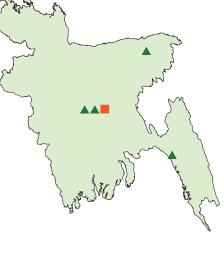
Geographic area (sq. km.): 130170 Population: 158512570 51.10% Below 24 yrs. old: Refugee population: 231145 Urban population: 34% GDP/capita: \$1.097 Unemployment: Below poverty line: 32% (2010)

COMMUNICATIONS AND LITERACY

FH Media Freedom: Partly Free Internet users/100 people: 6.5 Mobile phones/100 people: 74

Literacy: (2012) 59% (F: 55%, M:62%)

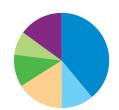
Avg. years of education: **10** (F: **10**, M: **10**)



PUBLIC DIPLOMACY SPENDING

TOTALS FY13 ACTUAL: \$1,300,108 FY14 ACTUAL: \$1,635,207 FY15 PLANNED: \$1,169,931

Total PD Spending by Theme



Top Spending by Activity

Support for Mission Initiatives	\$420,097
American Spaces (not centers)	\$302,698
American Centers	\$180,092
Support for English Language	\$138,486

Teaching/Learning

Educational Initiatives (not including \$121.417

English Language programs)





India

DEMOGRAPHICS

Below poverty line:

 Geographic area (sq. km.):
 2973190

 Population:
 1267401849

 Below 24 yrs. old:
 46.60%

 Refugee population:
 188395

 Urban population:
 32%

 GDP/capita:
 \$1,631

 Unemployment:
 4%

COMMUNICATIONS AND LITERACY

FH Media Freedom: Partly Free
Internet users/100 people: 15.1
Mobile phones/100 people: 71

Literacy: (2006) **63%** (F: **51%**, M:**75%**) Avg. years of education: **12** (F: **11**, M: **12**)

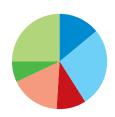


PUBLIC DIPLOMACY SPENDING

30% (2010)

TOTALS FY13 ACTUAL: \$6,573,157 FY14 ACTUAL: \$8,398,867 FY15 PLANNED: \$6,785,294

Total PD Spending by Theme



Top Spending by Activity

Support for Mission Initiatives \$1,118,442

American Spaces (not centers) \$1,039,122

Speaker Programs (Post Generated) \$889,705

Support for Information Resource \$763,464

Centers

Cultural Programs (Post Generated) \$662,312

Kazakhstan

DEMOGRAPHICS

 Geographic area (sq. km.): 569140

 Population:
 45545980

 Below 24 yrs. old:
 41.20%

 Refugee population:
 584

 Urban population:
 25%

 GDP/capita:
 \$1,338

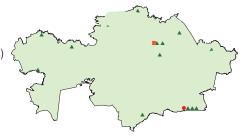
 Unemployment:
 9%

 Below poverty line:
 5% (2011)

COMMUNICATIONS AND LITERACY

FH Media Freedom: Not Free Internet users/100 people: 39
Mobile phones/100 people: 72

Literacy: (2007) 72% (F: 67%, M:78%) Avg. years of education: 11 (F: 11, M: 11)



PUBLIC DIPLOMACY SPENDING

TOTALS FY13 ACTUAL: \$1,728,773 FY14 ACTUAL: \$1,956,091 FY15 PLANNED: \$914,918

Total PD Spending by Theme

Top Spending by Activity

Educational Initiatives (not including	\$530,930
English Language programs)	
American Spaces (not centers)	\$417,888
Cultural Programs (Post Generated)	\$329,702
Supplementing Bureau of Public Affairs	\$180,787
Programs	

Media/Press Activities \$111,253





Kyrgyzstan

DEMOGRAPHICS

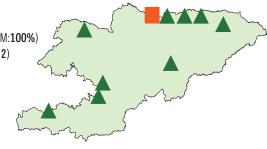
Geographic area (sq. km.): 191800 Population: 5834200 48.60% Below 24 yrs. old: Refugee population: 466 Urban population: 36% GDP/capita: \$1,269 Unemployment: 8% Below poverty line: 34% (2011)

COMMUNICATIONS AND LITERACY

FH Media Freedom: Not Free Internet users/100 people: 23.4 Mobile phones/100 people: 121

Literacy: (2009) 99% (F: 99%, M:100%)

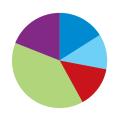
Avg. years of education: 13 (F: 13, M: 12)



PUBLIC DIPLOMACY SPENDING

TOTALS FY13 ACTUAL: \$1,343,828 FY14 ACTUAL: \$1,367,644 FY15 PLANNED: \$988,931

Total PD Spending by Theme



Top Spending by Activity

Support for Foreign Assistance	\$383,069
Programs	
American Spaces (not centers)	\$332,779
Other	\$330,522
Cultural Programs (Post Generated)	\$127,353
Support for English Language	\$62,907

Teaching/Learning

Nepal

DEMOGRAPHICS

Population: 28120740 Below 24 yrs. old: 54.20% Refugee population: 46305 Urban population: 18% GDP/capita: \$698 3% Unemployment: 25% (2011) Below poverty line:

Geographic area (sq. km.): 143350

COMMUNICATIONS AND LITERACY

FH Media Freedom: Partly Free Internet users/100 people: 13.3 Mobile phones/100 people: 77

Literacy: (2011) 57% (F: 47%, M:71%) Avg. years of education:

12 (F: 13, M: 12)

PUBLIC DIPLOMACY SPENDING

TOTALS FY13 ACTUAL: \$1,336,052 FY14 ACTUAL: \$1,375,089 FY15 PLANNED: \$622,703

Total PD Spending by Theme



Top Spending by Activity

Support for Mission Initiatives	\$568,581
American Spaces (not centers)	\$382,936
Support for English Language	\$117,142
Teaching/Learning	
Alumni Outreach	\$42,811
American Centers	\$41,850





Pakistan

Unemployment:

DEMOGRAPHICS

Geographic area (sq. km.): 770880 Population: 185132926 54.80% Below 24 yrs. old: Refugee population: 1616507 Urban population: 38% GDP/capita: \$1,334

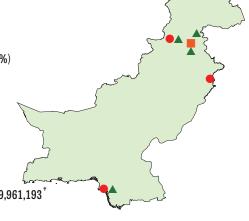
Below poverty line: 12% (Unknown)

COMMUNICATIONS AND LITERACY

FH Media Freedom: Not Free Internet users/100 people: 10.9 Mobile phones/100 people: 70

Literacy: (2011) 55% (F: 42%, M:67%)

Avg. years of education: 8 (F: 7, M: 8)



PUBLIC DIPLOMACY SPENDING

5%

TOTALS FY13 ACTUAL: \$49,232,000* FY14 ACTUAL: \$36,345,000* FY15 PLANNED: \$19,961,193

*Includes Economic Support Funds [†].7 PD Funding Only

Total PD Spending by Theme

Top Spending by Activity

American Spaces (not centers)	\$79,027
Other	\$14,996
Cultural Programs (Post Generated)	\$1,402
Books & Publications	\$935
Supplementing Bureau of Public Affairs	\$638

Programs

Sri Lanka

DEMOGRAPHICS

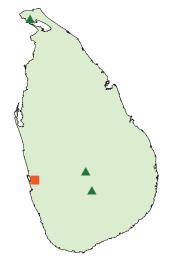
Population: 20639000 39.60% Below 24 yrs. old: Refugee population: 145 Urban population: 18% GDP/capita: \$3.631 Unemployment: 4% Below poverty line: **9%** (2010)

Geographic area (sq. km.): 62710

COMMUNICATIONS AND LITERACY

FH Media Freedom: **Not Free** Internet users/100 people: 21.9 Mobile phones/100 people: 95

Literacy: (2010) 91% (F: 90%, M:93%) Avg. years of education: 14 (F: 14, M: 13)



PUBLIC DIPLOMACY SPENDING

FY14 ACTUAL: **\$885,370** FY15 PLANNED: **\$671,825 TOTALS** FY13 ACTUAL: **\$906,556** (Also includes funding for PD programming in the Maldives)

Total PD Spending by Theme



Top Spending by Activity

Support for Mission Initiatives	\$223,363
American Centers	\$217,503
Educational Initiatives (not including	\$104,563
English Language programs)	
Cultural Programs (Post Generated)	\$64,089
Digital Outreach	\$63,464





Tajikistan

DEMOGRAPHICS

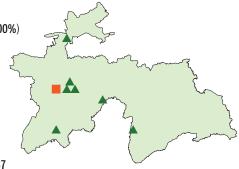
Geographic area (sq. km.): 139960 Population: 8408947 Below 24 yrs. old: 53.10% Refugee population: 2048 Urban population: 27% GDP/capita: \$1,099 Unemployment: 11% Below poverty line: **36%** (2013)

COMMUNICATIONS AND LITERACY

FH Media Freedom: Not Free Internet users/100 people: 16 Mobile phones/100 people: 92

Literacy: (2012) 100% (F: 100%, M:100%)

Avg. years of education: 11 (F: 10, M: 12)



PUBLIC DIPLOMACY SPENDING

TOTALS FY13 ACTUAL: \$1,053,396 FY14 ACTUAL: \$1,315,563 FY15 PLANNED: \$546,667

Total PD Spending by Theme



Top Spending by Activity

American Spaces (not centers)	\$455,390
Cultural Programs (Post Generated)	\$346,810
Support for Mission Initiatives	\$207,114
Educational Initiatives (not including	\$72,234
English Language programs)	
Other	\$55,304

Turkmenistan

DEMOGRAPHICS

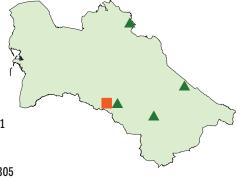
Geographic area (sq. km.): 469930 Population: 5307171 Below 24 yrs. old: 46.60% Refugee population: 45 Urban population: 50% GDP/capita: \$9.032 11% Unemployment: Below poverty line:

COMMUNICATIONS AND LITERACY

FH Media Freedom: **Not Free** Internet users/100 people: 9.6 Mobile phones/100 people: 117

Literacy: (2012) 100% (F: 100%, M:100%)

Avg. years of education:



PUBLIC DIPLOMACY SPENDING

FY14 ACTUAL: \$958,089 FY15 PLANNED: \$475,201 **TOTALS** FY13 ACTUAL: **\$764,074**

Total PD Spending by Theme



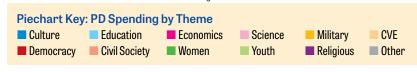
Top Spending by Activity

American Spaces (not centers)	\$360,305
Cultural Programs (Post Generated)	\$254,907
Support for English Language	\$90,140
Teaching/Learning	
Support for Information Resource	\$45,849

Centers

Supplementing Bureau of Public Affairs \$33,802

Programs





Uzbekistan

DEMOGRAPHICS

Geographic area (sq. km.): 425400 Population: 30742500 Below 24 yrs. old: 45.40% Refugee population: 141 36% Urban population: \$2,038 GDP/capita: 11% Unemployment: **17%** (2011) Below poverty line:

COMMUNICATIONS AND LITERACY

FH Media Freedom: Not Free Internet users/100 people: 38.2 Mobile phones/100 people: 74

Literacy: (2012) 99% (F: 99%, M:100%)

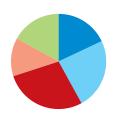
Avg. years of education: 12 (F: 11, M: 12)



PUBLIC DIPLOMACY SPENDING

TOTALS FY13 ACTUAL: **\$659,339** FY14 ACTUAL: **\$763,059** FY15 PLANNED: **\$639,127**

Total PD Spending by Theme



Top Spending by Activity

Cultural Programs (Post Generated)	\$233,087
Support for Mission Initiatives	\$207,765
Supplementing Bureau of Public Affairs	\$46,545
Programs	
Digital Outreach	\$37,704
Support for English Language	\$37 300

Teaching/Learning

